

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A reading method for reading a magneto-optical recording medium, comprising a storage layer and a readout layer, wherein an expanded domain leading to a readout pulse is generated in said readout layer by copying a mark region from said storage layer to said readout layer upon heating by a radiation power and with the aid of an external magnetic field, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) controlling the size of a spatial copy window of said copying process by varying a predetermined reading parameter in response to a control information derived from said readout pulse,
 - b) applying a predetermined additional pattern of change to said predetermined parameter, and
 - c) obtaining said control information from a deviation of a clock signal.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said clock signal is recovered from said readout pulse, from a wobbled groove, or from embossed marks provided on said recording medium, or from any combination thereof.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein said predetermined parameter corresponds to the value of said radiation power.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein said predetermined parameter corresponds to the strength of said external magnetic field.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein said predetermined parameter corresponds to a combination of the value of said radiation power and the strength of said external magnetic field.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein one of said values of said radiation power and said strength of said external magnetic field is used for coarse control and the other one is used for fine control.

7. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the claims 4 to 6~~claim 4, wherein said strength of said external magnetic field is varied by varying a coil current of a magnetic head.

8. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the~~
~~claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein said control information is obtained
from a deviation of a maximum value of a phase error of said
recovered clock signal from a predetermined set value.

9. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the~~
~~claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein said predetermined additional change
pattern is a periodic pattern of a predetermined frequency.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said
periodic pattern is a sinusoidal pattern.

11. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said
periodic pattern is a square-wave pattern.

12. (original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the
frequency of said square-wave pattern corresponds to half of a bit
frequency or an integer multiple of half of the bit frequency.

13. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the~~
~~claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein said clock signal is recovered by
using a phase-locked loop function.

14. (original) A reading apparatus for reading from a magneto-optical recording medium comprising a storage layer and a readout layer, wherein an expanded domain leading to a readout pulse is generated in said readout layer by copying a mark region from said storage layer to said readout layer upon heating by a radiation power and the aid of an external magnetic field, said apparatus comprising:

- a) control means for controlling the size of a spatial copy window of said copying process by varying a predetermined reading parameter in response to a control information derived from said readout pulse,
- b) change means for applying a predetermined additional pattern of change to said predetermined parameter, and
- c) clock recovery means for obtaining said information from a deviation of a clock signal.

15. (original) A reading apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said clock recovery means is arranged to recover said clock signal from said readout pulse, from a wobbled groove, or from embossed marks provided on said recording medium, or from any combination thereof.

16. (currently amended) A reading apparatus according to claim 14 or ~~15~~, wherein said control means is arranged to vary said radiation power.

17. (currently amended) A reading apparatus according to claim 14 or ~~15~~, wherein said control means is arranged to vary said external magnetic field.

18. (currently amended) A reading apparatus according to claim 14 or ~~15~~, wherein said control means is arranged to vary the value of said radiation power and the strength of said external magnetic field in combination.

19. (original) A reading apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said control means is arranged to use one of said values of said radiation power and said strength of said external magnetic field for coarse control and the other one for fine control.

20. (currently amended) A reading apparatus according to ~~any one of the claims 14 to 19~~ claim 14, also comprising field control means for sustaining said external magnetic field until said mark region is copied and for reversing said external magnetic field in response to detection of said readout pulse.

21. (currently amended) A reading apparatus according to ~~any one of the claims 14 to 20~~claim 14, wherein said clock recovery means is arranged to obtain said control information from a deviation of a maximum value of a phase error of said clock signal from a predetermined set value.

22. (currently amended) A reading apparatus according to ~~any one of the claims 14 to 21~~claim 14, wherein said clock recovery means comprises a phase-locked loop circuit.

23. (currently amended) A reading apparatus according to ~~any one of the claims 14 to 22~~claim 14, wherein said change means is arranged to use a periodic pattern of a predetermined frequency as said predetermined additional change pattern.

24. (original) A reading apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said periodic pattern is a sinusoidal pattern.

25. (original) A reading apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said periodic pattern is a square-wave pattern.

26. (original) A reading apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the frequency of said square-wave pattern corresponds to half of a bit frequency or an integer multiple of half of the bit frequency.

27. (currently amended) A reading apparatus according to ~~any one of the claims 14 to 26~~claim 14, wherein said reading apparatus is a disk player for MAMMOS disks.